

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented): An application development server, comprising:
 - a storage unit for storing a plurality of working definitions for a plurality of computing environments;
 - an interface for receiving requests for one of the plurality of computing environments from and transferring the requested one of the plurality of computing environments to a client over a communications line;
 - each one of said plurality of computing environments including a set of first working definitions that define a plurality of applications and a second working definition that defines each one of said plurality of computing environments, said set of first working definitions and said second working definition being included in said plurality of working definitions;
 - each one of said set of first working definitions including platform independent definitions that define characteristics of one of said plurality of applications that are necessary to construct a valid runtime image of said one of said plurality of applications, said characteristics including state, settings, and structures required to build said runtime image of said one of said plurality of applications; and
 - said second working definition including platform independent definitions that define characteristics of said each one of said plurality of computing environments that are necessary to construct a valid runtime image of said each one of said plurality of computing environments, said characteristics including state, settings, and structures required to build said runtime image of said each one of said plurality of computing environments.
2. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 1, wherein the communication line is the Internet.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 1, wherein each one of said set of first working definitions includes source code for one of said plurality of applications defined by said one of said set of first working definitions.

6. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 1, wherein encrypted links are sent to the client along with the requested one of the plurality of computing environments, the encrypted links providing support for development, testing, beta testing, and deployment of the plurality of applications.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 1, wherein the communications line is an intranet.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

 said interface receiving an update to one of said set of first working definitions; and

 said one of said set of first working definitions being modified to reflect said update.

12. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

 a change occurring within a data processing system;
 responsive to a determination that the change affects one of said set of first working definitions, the one of said set of first working definitions being modified to reflect the change; and

 the runtime image of one of said plurality of applications defined by said one of said set of first working definitions being updated.

13. (Previously Presented): The application development server as recited in claim 12, wherein the change is an event.

14-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented): A computer program product, comprising:
instruction means for storing a plurality of working definitions for a plurality of computing environments;
instruction means for receiving requests for one of the plurality of computing environments from and transferring the requested one of the plurality of computing environments to a client over a communications line;
each one of said plurality of computing environments including a set of first working definitions that define a plurality of applications and a second working definition that defines each one of said plurality of computing environments, said set of first working definitions and said second working definition being included in said plurality of working definitions;
each one of said set of first working definitions including platform independent definitions that define characteristics of one of said plurality of applications that are necessary to construct a valid runtime image of said one of said plurality of applications, said characteristics including state, settings, and structures required to build said runtime image of said one of said plurality of applications; and
said second working definition including platform independent definitions that define characteristics of said each one of said plurality of computing environments that are necessary to construct a valid runtime image of said each one of said plurality of computing environments, said characteristics including state, settings, and structures required to build said runtime image of said each one of said plurality of computing environments.

26. (Previously Presented): The product as recited in claim 25, wherein each one of said set of first working definitions includes source code for one of said plurality of applications defined by said one of said set of first working definitions.

27. (Previously Presented): The product as recited in claim 25, further comprising instruction means for sending encrypted links to the client along with the requested one of the plurality of computing environments, the encrypted links providing support for development, testing, beta testing, and deployment of the plurality of applications.

28. (Previously Presented): The product as recited in claim 25, further comprising:
instruction means for receiving an update to one of said set of first working definitions; and
instruction means for modifying said one of said set of first working definitions to reflect said update.

29. (Previously Presented): The product as recited in claim 25, further comprising:
instruction means for detecting a change within a data processing system;
responsive to a determination that the change affects one of said set of first working definitions, instruction means for modifying the one of said set of first working definitions to reflect the change; and
instruction means for updating the runtime image of one of said plurality of applications defined by said one of said set of first working definitions.

30. (Previously Presented): A method for providing automated software development to a client, said method comprising:
storing a plurality of working definitions for a plurality of computing environments;
receiving requests for one of the plurality of computing environments from and transferring the requested one of the plurality of computing environments to a client over a communications line;
each one of said plurality of computing environments including a set of first working definitions that define a plurality of applications and a second working definition that defines each one of said plurality of computing environments, said set of first working definitions and said second working definition being included in said plurality of working definitions;

each one of said set of first working definitions including platform independent definitions that define characteristics of one of said plurality of applications that are necessary to construct a valid runtime image of said one of said plurality of applications, said characteristics including state, settings, and structures required to build said runtime image of said one of said plurality of applications; and

said second working definition including platform independent definitions that define characteristics of said each one of said plurality of computing environments that are necessary to construct a valid runtime image of said each one of said plurality of computing environments, said characteristics including state, settings, and structures required to build said runtime image of said each one of said plurality of computing environments.

31. (Currently amended): The method as recited in claim 30 [[31]], wherein each one of said set of first working definitions includes source code for one of said plurality of applications defined by said one of said set of first working definitions.
32. (Previously Presented): The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising sending encrypted links to the client along with the requested one of the plurality of computing environments, the encrypted links providing support for development, testing, beta testing, and deployment of the plurality of applications.
33. (Previously Presented): The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising: receiving an update to one of said set of first working definitions; and modifying said one of said set of first working definitions to reflect said update.
34. (Previously Presented): The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising: detecting a change within a data processing system; responsive to a determination that the change affects one of said set of first working definitions, modifying the one of said set of first working definitions to reflect the change; and

updating the runtime image of one of said plurality of applications defined by said one of said set of first working definitions.

35. (Previously Presented): The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the change is an event.